

2006 SkillsUSA Kentucky Leadership and Skills Championship State Conference “Champions At Work”



It was considered a great success for everyone. This year's SkillsUSA Kentucky State Leadership Conference and Skills Championship, held at the Executive Inn in Louisville from April 12-15, exceeded expectations. A revitalization of SkillsUSA Kentucky has been accomplished and much work has been done over the past three years to bolster participation - resulting in over 700 secondary and 100 postsecondary students registered from 68 different schools. Not only did attendance increase, but corporate sponsorship is on the rise too.

“SkillsUSA Kentucky has always been part of my life and it continues to exceed my expectations. Coordinating and managing the state conference starts on the 20th floor of the Capital Plaza Tower and permeates throughout Kentucky with volunteers from business and industry, KY Tech ATCs, local school districts and postsecondary institutions,” says SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi. “Three years ago, I had a goal of reaching \$1 million in scholarships and prizes to give away to our state winners. We are well on our way to reaching this goal. We were able to raise \$750,000 for this year's conference and I expect to reach \$1M next year.”

Photo - Snap-on Tools Sponsorship, back row l to r: Snap-on Equipment Sales Specialists Mark Strain and M.C. Richmond; front row l to r: Terry Harwick, Central account manager; Eddy Litterall, Central KY-Lexington account manager and SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi.



Snap-on Tools has been a corporate state sponsor since 1975 and serves as an integral part in providing prizes for the automotive, collision repair, diesel technology, industrial maintenance-mechatronics, aviation and marine technology competitions for high school and postsecondary 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. This year's contributions totaled \$4,500.

“Snap-on has a ‘Student Excellence Program’ and it’s designed for students to buy tools at a greatly reduced price,” said Harwick.

“Our goal is to make each student a customer for life,” says Litterall. “For more information, students can visit our web site at: <http://www.snapon.com/student/>”

“Snap-on is a great company and we offer tools that will last for a lifetime. Having been an instructor in the KY Tech system, I understand the importance of good tools in a technical program and in the workplace,” said Strain.



The newest corporate sponsor for SkillsUSA Kentucky is Matco Tools. The company provided \$1,200 in tools for prizes.

Photo, from l to r: Matco Tools District Vocational Manager Doug Bailey and SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi.

“Matco Tools likes to see students succeed and we have a lot of programs in place to help equip them for their career path,” says Bailey. “I look at this as a way to give back and I’ve participated in the Ford Asset Program, so I understand the importance of business and industry sponsorship.”

“It’s corporations like Snap-on Tools and Matco Tools, as well as all the other corporate and scholarship sponsors, who have stepped up to provide scholarships and prizes to make SkillsUSA Kentucky what it is today. We appreciate their support and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial association,” says Phillippi.



To help rejuvenate SkillsUSA Kentucky, Phillippi knew he would need a team to coordinate, organize and deliver specific services necessary for the overall good of the organization and created the leadership team. His team members include Caldwell Co. ATC Culinary Arts Instructor Ruth Gray (far right), Paducah ATC Collision Repair Instructor Larry DeJournett (far left), and Newport High School Graphic Communications Instructor Steve Stubbs (second from right).

Gray, a veteran SkillsUSA supporter, is the state officer advisor and has been working with state officers since the 1994-95 school year. She works long, hard hours to help students understand their individual responsibilities in performing the duties of their office. Additionally, Gray helps each officer write his or her respective speech or speeches and works individually with each student to ensure a professional delivery. Becoming an officer is an important role and Gray works tirelessly to create a positive environment where students can become confident in their role of achieving success as a state officer. Among many duties, she is also responsible for conducting the 'Delegate Sessions.'

"It has always been very satisfying for me to help students discover their leadership capabilities and to see them grow and develop through this process. It's really what we are all about," says Gray. "Our leadership team works very well together and it's great to be able to depend on one another."

Due to health problems, Larry DeJournett was forced to take a back seat during the past five years and has reemerged over this past year as part of the leadership team. One of his collision repair students, James Bullard, the 2005-06 State Parliamentarian; provided DeJournett with an opportunity to once again become involved and help with state officers.

"This is enjoyable to me because our state officers have progressed to become excellent leaders during this past year," says DeJournett. "When the students in my classroom see how these students have excelled, it makes them want to put in the extra effort it takes to succeed. I'm glad to be part of this process and have an opportunity to help students understand the importance of leadership. We are pleased that two other students from the Paducah ATC are on this year's slate for state officers."



Steve Stubbs became involved in SkillsUSA Kentucky as a direct result of program assessment. There hadn't been a SkillsUSA Kentucky club at his school for 8 years and he resurrected its existence to meet program assessment requirements. Stubbs provides assistance with logos, printing, merchandising, and photography.

"I have a great belief in the value of SkillsUSA Kentucky because during my first year of teaching, one of my students won 1st place at state. That did it, I was hooked," says Stubbs. "The next year I became the head advisor and invited Steve Phillippi to come to our school to help me spread the good news about this student organization. At that point, Steve asked me to have one of my students run for state office. Ryan Long ran for and won state vice president. It was then that I became thoroughly involved in the state leadership team. I feel honored to spend time with people of this caliber and those who work so hard with students to help them grow. I only hope that I can expend the positive effort in the manner they do."

Phillippi is extremely pleased with his leadership team and complimentary of what each can bring to the table.

"It takes a strong group of people to understand the magnitude of what we do and each member of this team provides strong leadership to ensure success for our students and the conference," says Phillippi. "We also have Skills and Leadership Events Teams. The Skills Events Chairman is Joe Eames, and Co-Chair Greg Guinn, from the Jefferson Community and Technical College. They coordinate everything associated with all the skills events. The Leadership Events Team is composed of Chairman Dr. Sheree Koppel, Jefferson Public Schools and Myra Wilson, co-chair, the Office of Career and Technical Education. They coordinate the leadership events by securing event chairpersons and assisting with judges. The dedication of all these people is unwavering and the work they do speaks volumes for the organization."



Photo at left: DeJournett helps James Bullard prepare for his speech.

“I’ve learned a lot more about leadership and feel my social skills have improved by being part of SkillsUSA Kentucky,” says Bullard. “My plans are to work in an auto body repair facility upon graduation and I appreciate all the support I have received from Mr. DeJournett.”

At right: Ruth Gray and Tyler Thompson, 2005-06 state reporter from the Paducah ATC.



“I have learned so much from working with other people and have greatly improved my leadership and communication skills,” says Tyler. “Miss Gray is a wonderful advisor. We wouldn’t have such a good opening and closing without her. She makes sure we are all correctly prepared.”



At left: Doug Borchers, 2006 High School Advisor of the Year; Mark Raleigh, principal of Chapman CTC, Administrator of the Year and Daniel Burnett, Collegiate Advisor of the Year.

Borchers Named SkillsUSA Kentucky High School Advisor of the Year

Phillippi presents Borchers with his award.



C.E. McCormick ATC Automotive Technology Instructor Doug Borchers returned to work on Monday, April 10 after convalescing from a heart valve replacement operation that took place on January 25, 2006. During his recovery period, the students in his automotive technology program and instructors from the ATC nominated him as a candidate for the SkillsUSA Kentucky High School Advisor of the Year. He was selected. The trick was how to get him to the state conference so he could personally receive his award. After some conversation between State Director Steve Phillippi and C.E. McCormick ATC

Principal Joe Amann, it was necessary to pull in Borchers' wife to assist with the endeavor. On Wednesday, April 12 at the First General Assembly, Phillippi had the privilege of presenting Doug with his award. It was a pleasant surprise – especially since he had just returned to work and had not planned to be at state conference this year.

“I’ve come a long way in my job since I began four years ago. Being honored with this award tells me that I’m following the right path in what I’m doing on a daily basis to help students broaden their respective careers,” says Borchers. In my opinion, SkillsUSA is a gateway for students to achieve their career goals. I love my own kids and after my first year of teaching, I realized how much it meant to me to help students succeed in life.”

“Doug Borchers has advanced his school’s SkillsUSA chapter because his enthusiasm toward the student body has been overwhelming,” says Phillippi. “He has worked tirelessly with students in and out of the classroom to encourage participation in SkillsUSA and is certainly deserving of this award.”



2006-07 SkillsUSA Kentucky Secondary Officer Candidates



Photo at left, l to r: Ronnie Santana, Green Co. ATC; James Finnell, Paducah ATC; Justin Frye, Paducah ATC; Logan Hanes, Marshall Co. TC; Laurie Stevens, Southside TC; Brittaney Seidel, Southside TC; and Yehimy Gabriel, Eastside Technical Center. Photo at top: Jessica Wethington, Caldwell Co. ATC.

State Officer Advisor Ruth Gray is in charge of the ‘Delegate Assembly’ and during the Friday morning session, students had an opportunity to listen to all the state officer candidates and vote to accept the 2006-07 slate of officers. State Director Phillipi plans to enroll all the candidates in Leadership 101 during national conference and will determine offices once the training has been completed.

“We are excited that we have such a talented group of students running for this year’s slate of officers. I’m pleased that more students showed an interest in these leadership positions and I’m looking forward to working with each student over this next year,” says Gray.

When asked why they had an interest in running for a state office, the following comments were made by the candidates:

Ronnie Santana (electrical construction student under the direction of Green Co. ATC Instructor David Rauch) – “Running for an office is going to prepare me for my entrance into the world.”

James Finnell (collision repair under the direction of Paducah ATC Instructor Larry DeJournett) – “I want to have an opportunity to improve the great traditions of SkillsUSA Kentucky by making a difference.”

Justin Frye (collision repair under the direction of Paducah ATC Instructor Larry DeJournett) – “I want to be a state office because it’s honorable.”

Logan Hanes (carpentry, Marshall Co. Technical Center) – “It allows me to be a part of a team and to further my leadership development.”

Laurie Stephens (Southside Technical Center) – “I’m in search of a leadership position so that I can learn more about positive and productive ways to help others achieve personal career goals.”

Brittaney Seidel (welding, Southside Technical Center) – “When I was in the 6th grade, I decided I wanted to be an underwater welder. By running for a state office, I feel that I can help more people in technical programs to compete and learn about scholarships and to get out the word that this is the NEW TECH.”

Yehimy Gabriel (automotive technology, Eastside Technical Center) – “I found the career I want to pursue at my technical center and feel that running for a state office will help me provide more public awareness about careers that can come true.”

Jessica Wethington (culinary arts under the direction of Caldwell Co. ATC Instructor Ruth Gray) – “I know this opportunity will be a great experience for all of us. Miss Gray is a wonderful advisor and my hope is that we can make a difference across the state by using what we learn.”

“The Kentucky Statesman Award”

Each year, a number of students and advisors make a concentrated effort to acquire the Kentucky Statesman Award by completing twenty-five requirements. Upon completion, each successful candidate receives the KY Statesman Pin during the awards session.

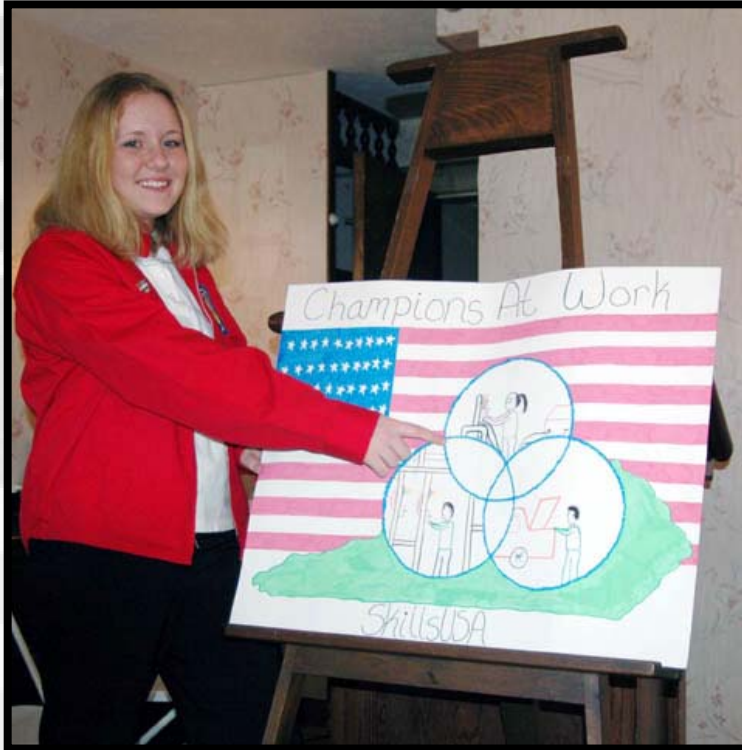
Tim Tankersley, Jackson Co. ATC automotive technology instructor, decided it was important to set an example for his students by completing all the requirements and spent time during this conference to successfully meet his goal.

“I have my ‘regional statesman pin’ and wanted to go through the process to obtain the Kentucky Statesman Award so that I could help my students achieve this goal,” says Tankersley. “The whole purpose of this is to learn and teach leadership skills. If you are going to be a student advisor, it’s important to know what and how to advise. This is just one avenue where an advisor can provide important guidance for his or her students.”



Tankersley is seated with Sheena Sexton, the SkillsUSA Kentucky Postsecondary vice president, to go over ‘Statesman’ requirements.

Poster Listed as a New Leadership Event



This year a new contest was added in the Leadership Events division – ‘Poster.’ Students were required to create a poster using the ‘Champions at Work’ theme. While this may seem like an easy task, contestants were not allowed to use any scrap-booking materials and no attachments were allowed. The poster had to be made using a pen, pencil, crayons, or markers. According to State Director Phillippi, “this contest was developed to provide sophomores with an opportunity to compete at state conference.”

Pictured at left is Lisa Robinson, a junior welding student under the direction of Rockcastle Co. ATC Welding Instructor Sherman Cook, with her winning poster. Lisa explained the background flag was added to provide a

“patriotic look;” the three circles were included for a “more Olympian feel and represent electricity, welding and automotive technology offered at the ATC. And, of course the state outline represents Kentucky.”

Robinson is one of two females in Cook’s advanced welding class and according to him, “she is an excellent student and a pleasure to have in class.”

“Because I’m a female, I think I have to work twice as hard to show that I’m just as good as the guys,” says Robinson. “I think I have some natural skill, but my teacher has also refined my skills. Mr. Cook is a great teacher and treats everyone the same.”

When asked what other girls think about her taking a welding class, Robinson replied, “Some of the girls around school think that my being in the welding class is cool, but there are others that think it’s kind of weird. I love my welding class and am glad that to have had an opportunity to learn so much in Mr. Cook’s class.”



From l to r: Hughes Jones Harrodsburg ATC Principal Duane Flora, Meade Co. ATC Carpentry Instructor Jeff Gutermuth, Russell ATC Electricity Instructor Doug Keaton and Casey Co. ATC Electricity Instructor Mike True.

“This is the best organized conference that I’ve ever seen,” said True, a 10-year conference veteran and the first VICA president (1968-69) as a student at the Lake Cumberland ATC.

“I have always supported student organizations at the local, regional and state levels,” says Gutermuth. “Students who actively take part seem to have the competitive edge when they enter the workforce. The Meade Co. ATC faculty, staff and principal fully support the principles of SkillsUSA Kentucky.”

“The importance of holding this type of competition at the state level helps us all to incorporate student leadership and skills development in our programs,” said Keaton. “I’m always interested in watching my students develop personal and professional skills, while at the same time providing service to their school and community. It’s a fact that student organizations reinforce workplace basics that will help our kids to succeed in life and I’m glad to be part of the equation.”



Photo l to r: "Looking for Internet Connecting Updates." Students from Eastside Technical Center are from l to r Matt Adkins, Phillip Habermann, and Mark Flores.



Students returning to hotel from skills competitive event.



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At right: The official State trading pin designed by Kayla Brewer, Nelson Co. ATC.



Above: Vicki Staley, OCTE and Dr. Ed Workman, NKU, go over judging duties.